The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

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Reflections of a Past President

Dr. Geerge L. Schadt

The reflections of a Past President of the Massachusetts Medical Society—reflections covering two years of rather strenuous activity, the first as President-Elect, and the second as President, may possibly have some interest for you. May I at the outset express the opinion that the honor of serving the Society as its President is the highest honor that can come to any member—it was to me. In these days of decentralization of authority, one serving as President finds it necessary to give a great deal of his time to its work. No member can possibly appreciate the tremendous amount of detail work that flows across the desk of the Secretary of our Society during these trying days—unless he is or has been in close touch with the work at 8 The Fenway. This President found it necessary to spend 156 days of the year he served out of Springfield. Much of the time was spent in Boston at Headquarters or attending committee meetings, considerable visiting fourteen of the eighteen District Societies, and on official visits to Chicago, Washington, New York, and other cities. So, the first reflection is that of a lot of time spent in becoming acquainted with the various District Societies, their officers and their members—a delightful experience for anyone.

In going about the various Districts one naturally compares the activities of one District with another, and he is impressed with how very much worthwhile some Districts make their meetings, and how inadequate are the meetings of others. To mention but two, this President would say that he was tremendously impressed with the type of meeting held by the Worcester District Society and the Essex South District Society. In both these Districts meetings are held once a month, and are combined meetings, consisting of a clinical program—the presentation of cases, etc.—and the presentation of a paper by a distinguished guest. Unfortunately, as already stated, some of the meetings are inadequate, in that too few meetings are held yearly, and when they are held the program leaves much to be desired. The responsibility of worthwhile District meetings is, in my opinion, that of the President and Secretary of each of the Districts, or of a Program Committee. Certainly not less than four meetings a year are desirable.

I am convinced anew of the responsibility that a doctor in any District assumes when he accepts election as a Councillor from his District. Each Councillor represents twenty members of his District Society at every meeting of the Council. If he does not attend, then twenty doctors have no voice in the deliberations of the Society. I would emphasize the importance of each District selecting only those gentlemen who, recognizing the importance of the office, will give up the necessary three days a year—one in May, October, and February—to attend the Council meetings. In my opinion, also, one Councillor from each District should submit a report to his

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Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

OFFICERS OF THE
HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

President—Dr. E. A. Knowlton
Vice-President—Sidney Carsley
Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. Wayne C. Barnes

Dutch Courage

Whoever gives tongue to the calumny that the Dutch depend upon alcohol for courage must be silenced now and for all time by heroic conduct daily made manifest in war-torn Holland. Physicians of all enlightened lands might learn a lesson in sacrificial devotion to the standards and ethics of medical practice from the example of the hundreds of their colleagues in the Netherlands who find themselves today in concentration camps with their property confiscated. They have been arrested after months of persistent non-cooperation by the exasperated regimenters who insist upon compliance with Nazi theories such as racial discrimination and selective sterilization.

The demand for abolition of the doctor's right to preserve professional secrets resulted in the resignation of ninety per cent of the seven thousand physicians from the Netherlands Medical Society. By this action these medical men of Holland have earned for themselves the right to stand in history alongside the heroic Dutch boy who saved the dyke. As one man they recently protested in unmistakable language that "death through hunger" threatened their people, and that conscription of Dutch laborers violated the Hague convention. Ten days after receiving that document, Dr. Arthur Seyss-Inquart, the Reich's Commissioner, ordered wholesale arrests and thereby guaranteed their immortality.

The facts in the matter were reported by Albert Orbaan in the Springfield Union under the date of July tenth of this year. But the underlying factors are not new. They were succinctly treated in the Letters of Junius as early as November 14th, 1770 as follows, "We lament the mistakes of a good man, and do not begin to detest him until he affects to renounce his principles . . . The imposter employs force instead of argument... and propagates his character by the sword." And, of course, the one-time "publican," Matthew of Capernaum, stated with sufficiently stark finality that "All that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

No, it was not Holland gin that inspired the doctors of the Netherlands to stand for what is right in the face of deprivation and death. It was a far more potent and enduring spirit than that produced by Lucas Bols to which their sympathetic colleagues of Hampden County hereby pay tribute. Would that we might stand as firmly in case of need!

—Ed.

N. P. C.

The following doctors in Hampden County contributed $66.00 in 1940, $32.90 in 1941, $100.00 in 1942, $80.00 in 1943 making a total of $278.90 in four years, towards the support of the National Physicians Committee as of July 1, 1943.

Holyoke—Dr. Edward. P. Bagg.
Palmer—Dr. H. C. Cheney.
Springfield — Dr. Azel P. Barney, Dr.

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Dr. W. A. R. Chapin
121 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Mass.
Telephone 2-7213

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DRUGGISTS
190 State Street Springfield

Professional Bldg. Pharmacy
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18 Maple Street Springfield

Dr. Harry F. Byrnes, Dr. W. A. R. Chapin, Dr. M. W. Conrow, Dr. William J. Cosgriff, Dr. G. F. Dalton, Dr. J. Perry Graham, Dr. Frederick Hagler, Dr. J. Joseph Klar, Dr. Fred D. La Rochelle, Dr. G. L. Steele, Dr. Joseph H. Lussier, Dr. Jas. Z. Naurison, Dr. Allen G. Rice, Dr. Bina Seymour.

Westfield—Dr. A. J. Douglas, Dr. Robert Fienberg, Dr. John Pallo, Dr. John C. Tate.

West Springfield—Dr. George B. Corcoran, Dr. Henry A. Downey.

This Committee is spending money for literature and maintaining an understaffed office, which keeps the doctors informed as to the progress of the advocates of socialized medicine. This office also is responsible for committing more than half of our present Congress in opposition to future regimentation of the physicians and surgeons of America.

You will notice in looking over these names that some of these men have made duplicate contributions, one of money from civilian life, and a second of their own persons by enlisting in our armed forces. It seems to me that the least we at home can do is to support the efforts of the N. P. C., not only that we may be spared the embarrassment of having the government run our business, but that we also may keep medical practice in the right channels so that when these men, now in service, return, they may have something decent to come back to.

It must be mostly carelessness. It can't be lack of funds in these lush days for doctors which has slowed up more active participation in this activity. Certainly those of us at home who can't take care of the home front can't very well bellyache about the lack of enlistment in the armed forces by our fellows. Of course human nature isn't any different than it ever was, and it is very comforting to point the accusing finger at the other fellow. However after four years of effort in a community where we have exaulted medical practice and practitioners when twenty-two men pay the bill for three hundred and fifty it is a sad commentary on both our intelligence and our standards of conduct.

The last issue of the Hippocrat had inclosed in it a flyer describing the work of the Committee and the need of its support, and a subscription slip of the simplest form.

Within a month we have all had a twenty-eight page folder telling us of the plans of the Wagner-Murray Senate Bill 1161 for abolishing private medical practice, for taking over medical schools, and for subsidizing all medical education and research in the United States. This bill proposes placing in the hands of one man—the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service—the power and authority—

1. To hire doctors and establish rates of pay—possibly for all doctors.
2. To establish fee schedules for services;
3. To establish qualifications for specialists;
4. To determine the number of individuals for whom any physician may provide service;
5. To determine arbitrarily what hospitals or clinics may provide service for patients.

Page fifteen of this folder tells what the Surgeon General could do, and page twenty-one recites this paragraph. "For the doctor, State medicine means abject slavery; the necessity of catering to the ward committeeman or the precinct captain rather than to the needs of the human beings who are his patients."

Page twenty-two gives doctors these two choices.

Dentists & Surgeons Supply Co.
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Harris Pharmacy
139 Chestnut Street
Springfield Massachusetts

1. They can demand a continuation of the practice of medicine under the Christian concept of the sanctity of human personality — The American Way—with continuing progress in the science of medicine and the art of medical practice; or

2. They can refuse to be concerned and refuse to assume their part of the responsibility. The result will be the sacrifice of their medical heritage—becoming mere pawns of politicians—the forfeiture of self-respect and inevitable deterioration.

W. A. R. CHAPIN, Local Chairman.

NURSES

"Fighting men need nurses! Doctors are not enough!"

In June there were 29,000 Army nurses on duty at 537 stations in the United States and in 35 additional countries. Navy nurses were assigned to 212 stations in the United States, were serving in 27 stations outside the continental United States, and with the two Navy hospital ships Solace and Relief. For purposes of comparison, in World War I, 21,480 nurses were sufficient for 169 stations at home and for 6 countries abroad.

The Surgeons General of the Army and Navy have placed the minimum requirements for additional nurses for the current year for the army alone at 36,000. This means that an average of 3,000 new nurses must be recruited every month.

Certain sections of the country are responding well—this happens not to be one of them. Only 35 nurses in the Springfield Area have entered service in the last 6 months. A total of 92 nurses who indicated they were available this year for military service, were furnished enrollment applications, and only 14 took the trouble to do anything about them. Two of these received Army assignments, 7 others applied for service, 4 replied they were unavailable or not interested, and one was excluded by reason of dependent children. It appears that the net result may be 6 service nurses out of 92.

The aspects of this picture are not enhanced by the fact that there are known to be approximately 170 available nurses in this area who meet age and physical requirements, who are not engaged in public health, hospital administration and supervision or other essential civilian service and who are not married or with dependents. There are others, too, for this number is assembled from a very incomplete list, but they are all self labeled by their own choice "unavailable."

While we are busy justifying our desires for luxury nursing at home, wounded fighting men cannot wait. They must have nursing care now—or never. The Armed Forces do not just want nurses —they need them now—not next year or the year after.

This is not a matter which concerns nurses alone. They have the skills which no one else has—they have the opportunities and privileges of Army and Navy officers—good pay, comfortable living, valuable experience if they are career people, the protection of federal benefits. They do not even have to accept overseas assignments unless they volunteer to do so. Perhaps the first wave of that thing called patriotism is over—perhaps the others have not stopped to think how much depends upon them. If they have not—civilians are as much at fault as they are—for in the last analysis the final answer rests with civilians. Fighting men on the battle fronts are taking no vacations, we who provide them with nursing care can be equally concerned with our own responsibility to them.

Certainly we can distinguish between really essential—and luxury nursing service at home. We can encourage eligible nurses to realize they are needed for total war. Our hospitals can still release some nurses—not comfortably, but without endangering public safety. New graduates can be persuaded, not dissuaded, for they have not yet become indispensable. Industries can discourage the employment of nurses eligible for service—either as nurses, or worse, as machine operators, a practice which is not unknown. Office nurses need not be of service age. Many private duty nurses can be spared. Nurses, over service age, can serve as replacements, in many cases, and will if they feel they

are urgently needed. In many instances nurses have voluntarily gone back to 12 hour duty for the duration. Professional and laymen alike can help with substitution methods with a little more conscious effort. Fortunately, all this is still on an entirely voluntary basis — nurses have never been drafted. "Fighting men need nurses" must either be a phrase or a reality—that choice is still ours. Civilians can still encourage Nightengales or Nonentities. W. C.

It is fitting that Dr. Edward A. Knowlton of Holyoke should be honored with the office of Chairman of the State Board of Registration in Medicine after fourteen years of unbroken service in the selection of prospective practitioners in Massachusetts. He was appointed to the Board first by Gov. Alvan T. Fuller in the Fall of 1928, reappointed by Gov. Ely in 1933 and again by Gov. Saltonstall in 1940. Subsequent to the death of Dr. Francis Mahoney of Lowell, he was made Chairman last June. The Hippocrat is pleased to voice the commendation of his fellow practitioners of Hampden County for a long term of labor well and conscientiously done.

Some day we hope some future Hippocrat will be able to do as much for Dr. George L. Schadt who stepped, on July first, at the invitation of Gov. Saltonstall, from the Presidency of the Massachusetts Medical Society down to mere membership on the Board of Registration.

Procurement and Assignment

In the Spring of 1942, the then President of the Hampden District Society of the Massachusetts Medical Society asked me to head a Committee to be known as the Local Procurement and Assignment Board, a branch of the Man Power Commission, the Board to consist of four other members to come from Springfield and surrounding cities. These other members are Dr. Archibald Douglass, Westfield, Dr. George Henderson, of Holyoke, Dr. Mortimer Stoddard and Dr. Frederic Hagler, of Springfield. These represent the Hampden District.

Dr. Reginald Fitz, of Boston, is the State Chairman and all requests for Procurement and Assignment originate in his office and only upon his request were our recommendations made.

The duties of the Committee consisted of an appraisal of the character, habits, professional standing and availability service in the armed forces of the United States of physicians whose names were submitted through the State Chairman. The general considerations were of age, 38 years or under, graduates of Class A Medical Schools, and whether or not a particular man was necessary to the smooth operation of the Medical Service or local hospitals or communities.

After Pearl Harbor it was learned that a large number of physicians in our community were determined to enter the armed services, regardless of whether or not hospitals or local communities were inconvenienced; the Board decided not to interfere with the patriotic action and desire of any of our brother physicians. In connection with this stand on the part of two men there was some local agitation, fearing the early demise of our infant population. In the case of one of these men, he was given personal notification by the Chairman, that he had been placed on the essential list; despite this information he persisted in his effort, secured a commission and is now on active duty.

There was concern and some agitation when physicians entered the service from some of the local, small, communities, but

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these vacancies were soon filled by men quickly moving in and taking over.

Much personal abuse was heaped upon the heads of the Committee, as our position was clearly misunderstood, we were thought to have the power to force entrance into service, when it was quite the contrary, as candidate for commission must apply and be accepted, then passed on to our Board, thru Dr. Fitz, to pass upon whether or not he was essential. We could not force a man to apply for service but we could prevent his being accepted for service.

In the Springfield area on December 22, 1942, there were 118 doctors 45 years old or under, each of whom were considered of distinct military interest; 74 of these were graduates of approved medical school and of these 36 have been commissioned; 8 have applied and been rejected, 30 so far have not done anything.

There are 24 doctors who are graduates of foreign, or domestic sub-standard schools, five of these have been commissioned, three have refused commissions (I would publish the names of these three if I knew who they were), 16 have so far done nothing. All interns have been commissioned.

This means Springfield faced 1943 with 136 doctors over 45 years old and 11 younger men who refused comissions.

A pool of 46 doctors available for service have not applied. If 30 do apply this year, this would leave 167 doctors, or about one doctor to 1000 people in Springfield-West Springfield area.

The most recent A. M. A. Directory showed 313 doctors for this community, 56 were over age, leaving 257. Of these 139 are in the group 45 to 65, leaving 136 for general medical service. We have several men who are eligible for service who have been postponed for various reasons and also some who have applied to the Navy demanding superior rank and have been refused, thus claiming refusal by the Navy and making no attempt to enter the Army. These figures have changed slightly since first compiled but show a fairly accurate pattern of conditions as they exist today.

It is regretted that at least five of our prominent younger men in Springfield have been urged by Dr. Fitz to accept commissions and in one instance the commision has been refused, a second one is "reluctant," a third one ignores all communications, two others temporarily deferred, have not moved at the end of the deferment period. Our communications from Dr. Fitz suggest "pressure," this is impossible. These physicians referred to above are all prominent in their specialties, are hospital connected, but are not essential.

The general public should know something of this situation, as at this time every family is represented in the Armed Forces and are more concerned that those away in battle are given the care that is sorely needed, rather than we on the home front.

CHARLES LYNCH.

Reflections of a Past President

From Page 1

District Society on the deliberations of the Council at the first meeting of his District, following the Council meeting.

Each member of our Society assumed a direct responsibility for the success of the Massachusetts Medical Service—The Blue Shield—when the Council of the Society sought and obtained an Enabling Act from the Legislature permitting it to organize this corporation, and voted $25,000 from its Treasury to finance the expenses incidental to the organization

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of The Blue Shield. 3,300 doctors have signed up as members of the Blue Shield. Unfortunately, the rank and file of membership of our District Societies have not taken the time, and in many cases not made the necessary effort, to become familiar with what the Blue Shield stands for, and how very much it is going to help their patients, which after all is the desired goal, and in a secondary sense how much it will help them. Some of our members, unfortunately, have seen fit to sabotage this very worthwhile endeavor on the part of our State Society.

In conclusion, may this Past President say that he is impressed again with the truth of the statement: No man lacks honor save in his own country. He was complimented in receiving formal invitations from fourteen of our eighteen District Societies to visit them.

Letter from Dr. Teahan

From Page 8

fractures of all types — some needing amputation, hernias, appendices, skin grafts, foreign body buried in medial nerve, etc. Medical work—which I don't do—yet it is very fascinating, would include malaria, dengue, relapsing fever, syphilis, g.c., dysenteries of all types amebiasis, trachoma, sprue, and fly fever, heat exhaustions, also filiariosis (Bancrofti) a most unusual disease causing all types of symptoms in blocking lumphatics, rat bite fever, Noga ulcers and Kala Azar, etc. We treat here Indian and U. S. boys, English boys, and loads of Chinese. In fact our present post is one of Uncle Joe's pet places. We are quite fortunate in that we are working as real doctors on real pathology. As you well know, most of the doctors in the Army and Navy have more first aid to do and sick calls to take and do not get at the big stuff.

We are fairly comfortable here despite the heat. I do want to say a few words about our first assignment though. Your nurses at home will be interested because our girls all went through this experience. We got off a train in the jungle and were told this was our home. We had tents to live in, mud 10 to 18 inches deep to wade through, monkeys by the hundreds making a horrible racket in the trees, cobras and kraits to avoid, water buffalo and elephants and sacred cows all trespassing through our area, and foliage of bamboo, palm, and jungle leaves so heavy that you could hardly see any distance over 35 feet. We hired 1000 Indian coolies at 30 cents per day per head, cleaned the whole place out. Most all wild life fled after a few days, scared of us (we were a bit of them, too). We established a corking good mess, a marvelous recreation room with radio, vic, books, and a bar, and the coolies built us bamboo homes called bashas with palm leaf roofs. We washed, showered and shaved over the pumps (hand) and ate out of mess cans. The mosquitoes and malaria in this area were very heavy. We always sleep under mosquito bars every night in the East. Anyhow when we left the above area, it was very liveable and comfortable.

We now have moved from above, have electric fans, brick buildings, movies, ice cream and many servants to wait on us. In my personal employ, I have a bearer who acts as my orderly, a sweeper who cleans my floor, and a dobey who does my wash.

My very best to each and everyone of you back home. I know you have a hard task and are doing a good job. I do hope you will write from time to time. I can assure you nothing reaches deeper in our hearts than mail from home.

Yours for a speedy victory,

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LETTER FROM DR. TEAHAN

Post Hospital
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June 11, 1943

Hello Everybody:

Our 48th Evacuation Hospital was born about a year ago, was weaned in the Tennessee maneuvers last Summer and Fall, and at their conclusion in November we all had a fine reputation. We were sent back to Devens and were there a few weeks when we were alerted for foreign duty. I had just time enough to spend the best Christmas ever with Marcella, Mary Eileen and Billy, and then we were off to sunny California. The day we left Devens it was 30 below zero, a week later in the West it was 90 and yesterday over here it was 120 in the shade and 145 in the sun. We left the U S. shortly after we arrived out West and then our group proceeded over the various oceans for a long time. When we reached our final destination, we were told by the powers above that we had travelled further than any other group ever did in our Army or Navy to reach a specific point or assignment. We had a marvelous trip, saw many lands and strange places, and certainly were exhausted yet happy to be safely here in a part of India. Everywhere en route we were permitted to visit shore when that was possible. Since I have been with the Army, I have covered about 24,000 miles or the distance around the world. Transportation was always pretty comfortable and we have gone here or there by train, boat, and plane. If you read the news of the Far East carefully you will know where I am and where we hope to be in the near future.

Right now we are very busy and our hospital is full at all times. It is about eight times bigger than yours and has many different types of medical problems peculiar to the Far East plus the things you see at home. Our surgery is very plentiful and I confess that many days I wish we had less operating to do because of the heat. Past week we have had for example—splenectomy, empyema, lung abscess, perforated intestine (trauma),

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